

# 2019 ADVANCED DUI TRIAL ADVOCACY

September 9 - 12, 2019  
Phoenix, Arizona



## CURRENT LAB ISSUES (Defense Ploys)

Presented by:

**Beth Barnes**

TSRP, Assistant Phoenix City Prosecutor  
Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office

&

**Erin Boone**

Forensic Scientist  
Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory

Distributed by:

ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL  
1951 West Camelback Road, Suite 202  
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

ELIZABETH BURTON ORTIZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Common Defense Ploys in Blood Cases

*Beth Barnes, Phx City Pros Office*  
AZ Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor  
beth.barnes@phoenix.gov

*Erin Boone, DPS Crime Lab*  
Criminalist IV  
(602) 223-2281  
eboone@azdps.gov

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

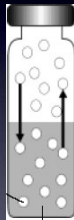
---

## Blood Alcohol Analysis Quick Review

### Headspace Gas Chromatography

Measures alcohol content in the  
air above the blood

Standard in the scientific  
community for blood alcohol  
analysis



2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Blood Alcohol Analysis PerkinElmer Clarus 500 w/ Turbomatix HS110



3

---

---

---

---

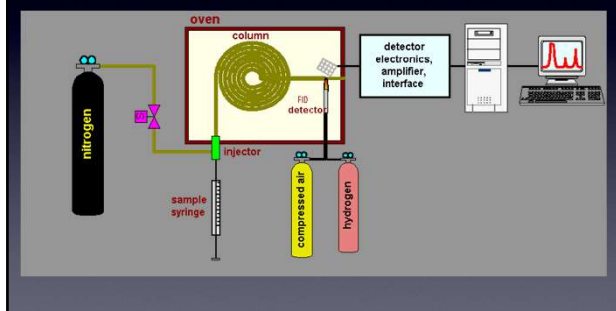
---

---

---

# Blood Alcohol Analysis

## Chromatography



4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Blood Alcohol Analysis

## Quality Assurance

5

---

---

---

---

---

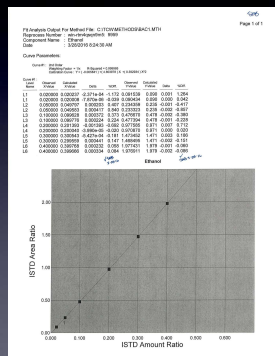
---

---

---

# Calibration Curve

NIST Traceable Calibration: 0.02, 0.05, 0.10, 0.20, 0.30, 0.40



6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

[illegible]

---

---

---

---

---

---

Column A: Bille BAC-1 Advantage 30 meter 0.32mm ID 1.8 um df

Data File: C:\TCW\data\eeb\0325A014.net

| Peak         | Rt    | Area   | g/100 mL |
|--------------|-------|--------|----------|
| Methanol     | 1.822 | 4795   |          |
| Acetaldehyde | 1.923 | 43251  |          |
| Ethanol      | 2.298 | 9049   | 0.0105   |
| Isopropanol  | 2.807 | 19452  |          |
| Acetone      | 3.049 | 39282  |          |
| n-Propanol   | 3.866 | 202548 |          |

---

---

---

---

---

---

Column B: Elite BAC2 Advantage 50 meter 0.32 mm ID 0.6 um df

Data File: C:\TDW\data\eeb\03298014.rst

| Peak         | Rt    | Area   |
|--------------|-------|--------|
| Acetaldehyde | 1.653 | 46319  |
| Methanol     | 1.773 | 4436   |
| Ethanol      | 2.129 | 7767   |
| Acetone      | 2.291 | 40912  |
| Isopropanol  | 2.423 | 17897  |
| n-Propanol   | 3.382 | 186498 |

---

---

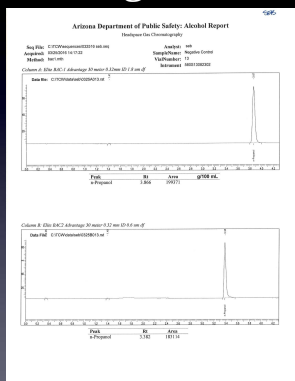
---

---

---

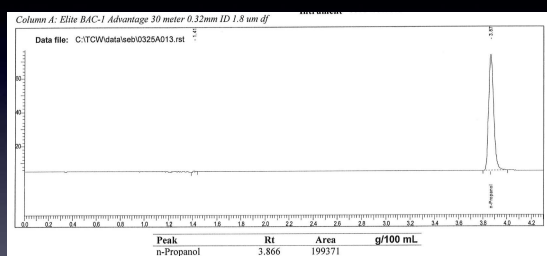
---

## Negative



10

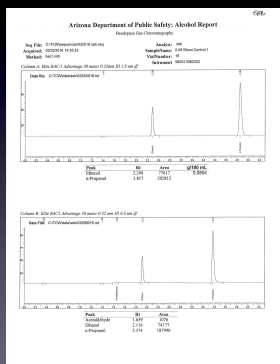
## Negative



11

## Controls

Aqueous and Whole Blood



12

# Cases Run in Duplicate

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Verification Standards

Same as Calibration Standards

Analyzed at the end of run

Verifies pipettor and calibration stability

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Blood Alcohol Ploys

| <u>Tubes</u>              | <u>Analysis</u>      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Swab contamination        | Hanging Drop         |
| Micro Clots               | Wrong Vial           |
| Expired Tubes             | Contamination        |
| Yeast Contamination       | Rising Blood Alcohol |
| Not Refrigerated          | All Chromatograms    |
| Preservatives Not Present |                      |

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Lack of Foundation

Person objecting must indicate what is lacking

*Packard v. Reidhead*, 22 Ariz.App. 420 (1974)

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Swab Contamination

Defense Claim

Unknown what type of swab was used to clean the skin prior to the blood draw

The “alcohol” swab raised the alcohol concentration inside the tube



17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Swab Contamination

Admissibility

### Response

Issues of whether solution containing alcohol was used to cleanse skin before a blood test go to weight, not admissibility of test

*Kaufman v. State*, 632 S.W.2d 685 (Tex. Ct. App. 1982)  
*State v. Fox*, 177 Neb. 238, 128 N.W.2d 576 (1964)

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Swab Contamination

Arguments

### Officer/Phlebotomist

Used swab that came with blood kit  
Documented the type of swab used

### Criminalist or Defense Expert

Swab in kits don't contain Ethanol  
If other alcohol, GC can distinguish  
Even if pure ethanol – difficult to effect

19

---

---

---

---

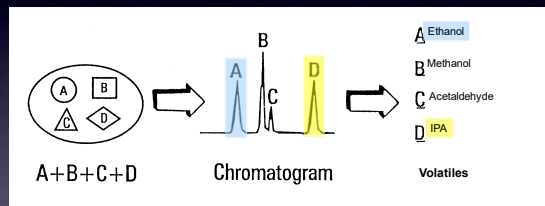
---

---

---

## Blood Alcohol Analysis

Chromatography



20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Micro Clots

Defense Claim

Microscopic clots in defendant's blood sample make sample non-homogenous

Clots = Higher Aqueous Content

Artificially raises reported AC

Idea from centrifuged samples where cells are separated from serum/plasma

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Micro Clots

Arguments

### Officer/Phlebotomist

Inverted tube to mix at least recommended  
8-10 times

Preservative & anti-coagulant were present

### Criminalist or Defense Expert

No published studies to support theory

A clot big enough to cause a problem would  
not fit in pipetor tip

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Micro Clots

Arguments

### Defense Expert

Has defense expert seen this or been  
concerned by possibility with own casework?

If so, did they voice concerns?

Adjust their own casework numbers?

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Expired Tube

Defense Claim

Expired grey top tubes  
were used to collect  
blood

Can't trust the test  
results



24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Expired Tube

Argument

If tubes are expired, only issue is vacuum loss

Successfully drawn blood = good vacuum  
Preservative & anti-coagulant do not expire  
Both are salts

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Yeast Contamination

Defense Claim

Candida albicans (yeast) in blood produces alcohol inside tube (or inside body)

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Yeast Contamination

Argument

In theory, yeast can convert glucose into ethanol

But, requires a lack of sodium fluoride, added glucose, no refrigeration, and yeast in blood

Sodium Fluoride blocks ethanol production

Sepsis would result if Candida albicans were in blood – hospitalized/death

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sample Not Refrigerated

Defense Claim

Lack of refrigeration allowed ethanol to  
increase in sample

28

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sample Not Refrigerated

Argument

Officer/Phlebotomist

Tube was stored in refrigerator

Criminalist

Preservative prevents ethanol rise whether  
refrigerated or not

Ethanol concentration would most likely  
lower

29

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Preservatives Not Present

Defense Claim

Lab doesn't test for  
presence of preservative  
or anticoagulant in  
blood sample

Can't prove it was  
present in blood tube

Caused inaccurate  
results



30

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Preservatives Not Present

Argument

Officer/Phlebotomist

Inspected tube prior to use

Criminalist

Analyst inspects tube of blood and documents any unusual appearance

Manufacturer of tube adds mixture of preservative and anticoagulant at same time

If blood not clotted, both were in the tube

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

31

## Hanging Drop

Defense Claim



A drop of blood on the pipette tip contained ethanol & added too much blood to headspace vial

More blood = More ethanol

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

32

## Hanging Drop

Argument

Criminalist

Blood Alcohol QC rules this out

Duplicate Sample agreement

Control agreement with target value

Calibration linearity

Defense Expert

Peer reviewed literature supporting?

Was "correction" applied to own casework?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

33

## Wrong Vial

Defense Claim

When sample was placed on GC, Criminalist  
mixed up samples

Instrument might have picked up wrong vial  
– you weren't there

Either way, reported result was not  
defendant's

34

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Wrong Vial

GC/HS



35

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Wrong Vial

Argument

Only one blood tube opened at a time

DR# labeled on tube & headspace vial

DR# verified at each step of sample prep

Samples loaded into carousel in same order  
as sample rack & run in sequence order

Duplicate samples must agree within 5%

Tests following error would all be off

Blood available for independent reanalysis\*

36

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Contamination

Defense Claim



A substance other than ethanol was in sample & came out of GC at same time as ethanol

The unknown peak is hidden behind the ethanol peak

37

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Contamination

Argument

Gas Chromatography is universally recognized as separation science

Dual column virtually eliminates co-elution

Unknown substance must be volatile compound, high enough in concentration, elute on both columns at exact times as ethanol

Method validation

38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Contamination

Argument

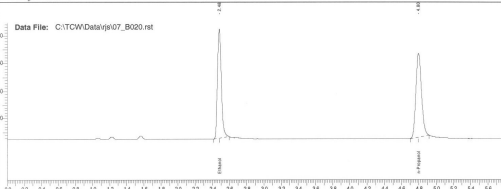
### AZ DPS Crime Lab: Alcohol Report

Headspace Gas Chromatography

Seq File: C:\TCW\Sequences\04072011\js.seq

Analyst: rjs

B: Confirmation



| Peak       | Rt    | Area   |
|------------|-------|--------|
| Ethanol    | 2.483 | 247555 |
| n-Propanol | 4.798 | 276004 |

39

---

---

---

---

---

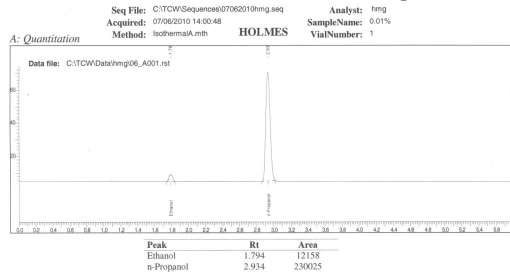
---

---

# Contamination

Argument

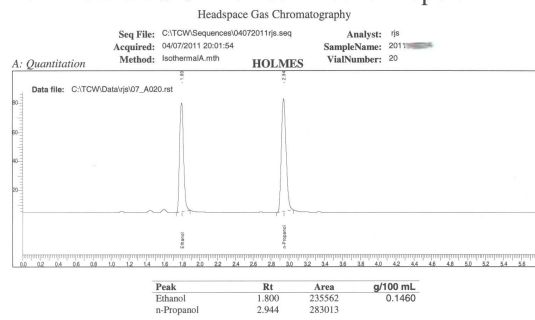
## AZ DPS Crime Lab: Alcohol Report



40

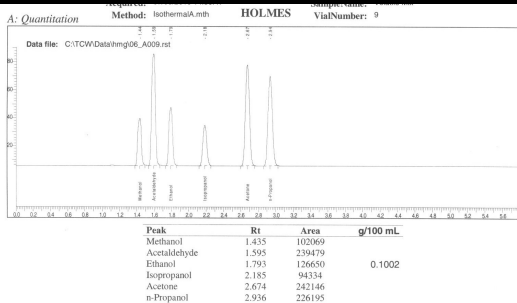
# Bumps on the Chromatogram

## AZ DPS Crime Lab: Alcohol Report



41

# May Want to Compare to Mix Standard



42

## Rising Blood Alcohol

Defense Claim

Blood Alcohol Concentration was lower at the time of driving than at the time of test

Defendant drank after accident

Defendant absorbs alcohol very slowly

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

43

## Rising Blood Alcohol

Argument

Studies have shown that under normal drinking scenarios, individuals are either equal to or higher at the time of driving

Gullberg RG, Comparing Roadside With Subsequent Breath Alcohol Analysis And Their Relevance To The Issue Of Retrograde Extrapolation. Forensic Science International, 57 (1992) 193-201

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

44

## Rising Blood Alcohol

Argument

Discredit defendant's claim of drinking after accident with officer account & witness testimony

Criminalist can mathematically account for unabsorbed drinks

Time of driving retrogrades not relevant to the (A)(1) charge

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

45



## Rising Blood Alcohol

Argument

Hangover study by AW Jones indicated one individual with an absorption time of 230 minutes

Study flaws

More recent studies have not verified this long of an absorption time

Gullberg study of full vs empty stomach absorption found longest rate of 80 minutes

46

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Need Every Chromatogram

Argument



47

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Need Every Chromatogram

Argument

Need every chromatogram of all the other samples run in the same batch

Need it to determine whether the instrument was performing properly

Check to see consistency of internal standard area counts

48

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Need Every Chromatogram

Argument

QC is run with every batch to ensure validity  
and accuracy of each test

Samples not meeting duplicate agreement are  
re-run in a later batch

Entire batches are not re-run for samples not  
meeting duplicate agreement

Case samples meeting agreement are not used  
to validate other case samples

Internal standard compensates for slight  
variations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

49

## Blood Alcohol Analysis

Bottom Line

Talk with the Criminalist

Learn the science

For admissibility, is it a FACT question?

Argue speculation and irrelevant

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

50

## Questions?

Erin Boone, DPS Crime Lab  
Criminalist IV  
(602) 223-2281  
eboone@azdps.gov

Beth Barnes, Phx City Pros Office  
AZ Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor  
beth.barnes@phoenix.gov

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

51

## Hematocrit

Defense Claim

Hematocrit is the solid material in blood  
comprised of mostly red and white blood cells

High hematocrit level = Less water in blood

Less water = Higher alcohol concentration

52

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Hematocrit

Argument

Higher alcohol concentration = More Impairment

53

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Salting Out

Defense Claim

Sodium fluoride preservative drives  
more ethanol from blood into  
headspace

Artificially raises reported value

54

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Salting Out

Argument

Dilution lowers concentration of salt

Study: adding more and more sodium fluoride caused alcohol level to drop

55

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Need Every Chromatogram

Defense Claim

Need every chromatogram of all other samples run in the same batch

Need to determine whether instrument was performing properly

Check to see consistency of internal standard area counts

56

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Need Every Chromatogram

Argument

QC is run with every batch to ensure validity and accuracy of each test

Samples not meeting duplicate agreement are re-run in a later batch

Entire batches are not re-run for samples not meeting duplicate agreement

Case samples meeting agreement are not used to validate other case samples

Internal standard compensates for slight variations

57

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Chain of Custody

Defense Claim

Sample analyzed may not be defendant's

Someone tampered with sample

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

58

## Chain of Custody

Argument

### Officer

How was sample labeled?

Where was sample placed?

Protocols?

### Criminalist

Where was sample obtained?

How was it labeled?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

59

## Chain of Custody

Criminalist Notes

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

| RECEIVED FROM | BY | DATE | TIME | AM/PM |
|---------------|----|------|------|-------|
|               |    |      |      |       |
|               |    |      |      |       |
|               |    |      |      |       |
|               |    |      |      |       |

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

60

## Chain of Custody

Argument

Defense may stipulate to part or all of chain

Challenges to chain of custody go to weight,  
not admissibility

Defendant must make some showing that  
evidence was tampered with

*State v. Morales*, 170 Ariz. 360 (App. 1991); *State v. Moreno*, 26 Ariz.App. 178 (1976) *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts*, 2009 WL 1789468 FN1 (US Sup.Ct. 6/23/09).

61

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Heads Up

Uncertainty

Measurement uncertainty is a parameter  
that characterizes the variability of a  
measured value

ISO 17025 - ASCLD-LAB Accreditation

Less than 5%

62

---

---

---

---

---

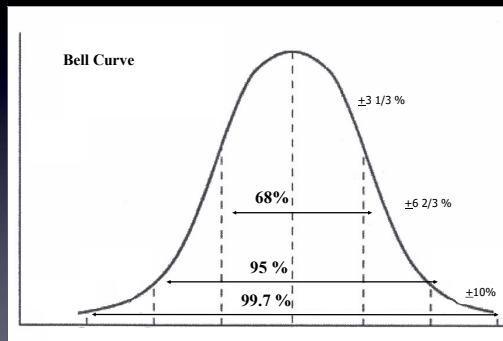
---

---

---

## Heads Up

Uncertainty



63

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# 2019 ADVANCED DUI TRIAL ADVOCACY

September 9 - 12, 2019  
Phoenix, Arizona



## CURRENT LAB ISSUES (Defense Ploys)

Presented by:

**Beth Barnes**

TSRP, Assistant Phoenix City Prosecutor  
Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office

&

**Erin Boone**

Forensic Scientist  
Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory

Distributed by:

ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL  
1951 West Camelback Road, Suite 202  
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

ELIZABETH BURTON ORTIZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Common Defense Ploys in Blood Cases

*Beth Barnes, Phx City Pros Office*  
AZ Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor  
beth.barnes@phoenix.gov

*Erin Boone, DPS Crime Lab*  
Criminalist IV  
(602) 223-2281  
eboone@azdps.gov

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Breath Alcohol Analysis

Quick Review

Absorption – Alcohol entering the body

Elimination – Alcohol leaving the body

2

---

---

---

---

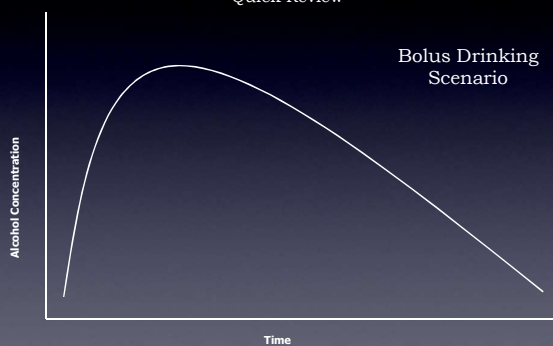
---

---

---

## Breath Alcohol Analysis

Quick Review



3

---

---

---

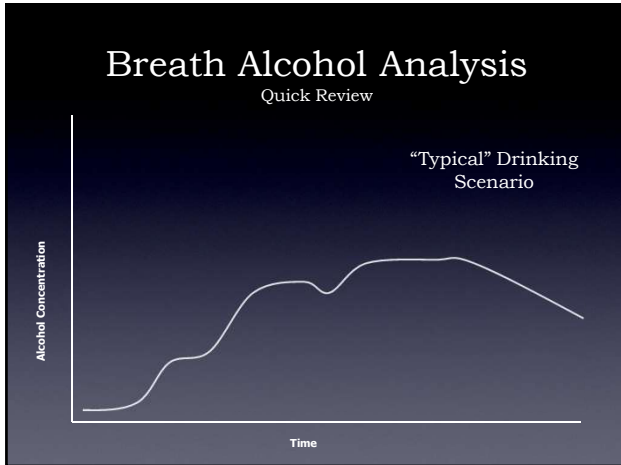
---

---

---

---





4

---

---

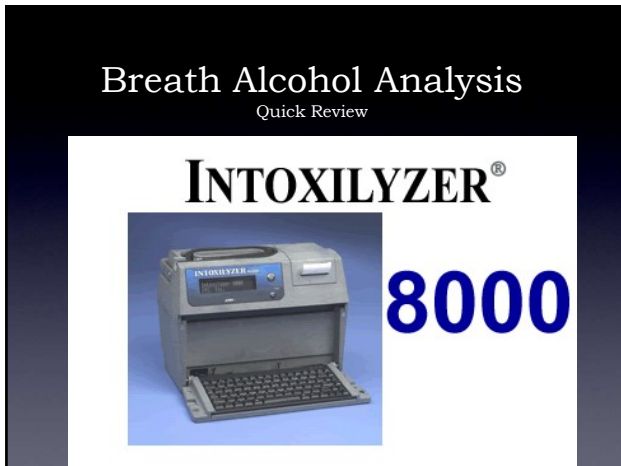
---

---

---

---

---



5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



6

---

---

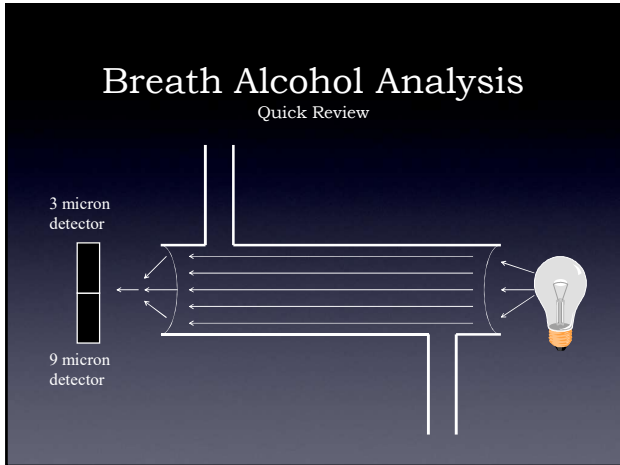
---

---

---

---

---



7

---

---

---

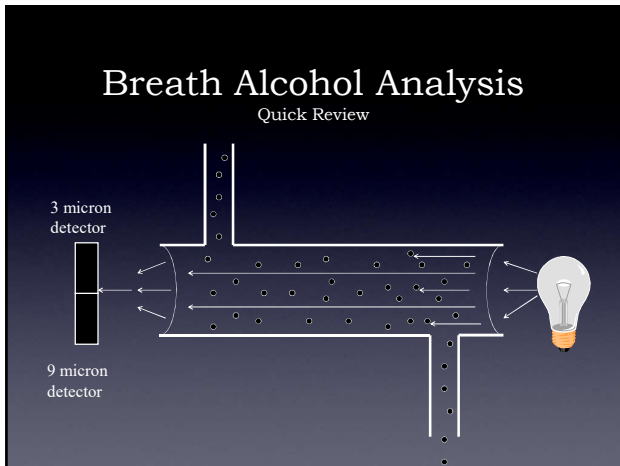
---

---

---

---

---



8

---

---

---

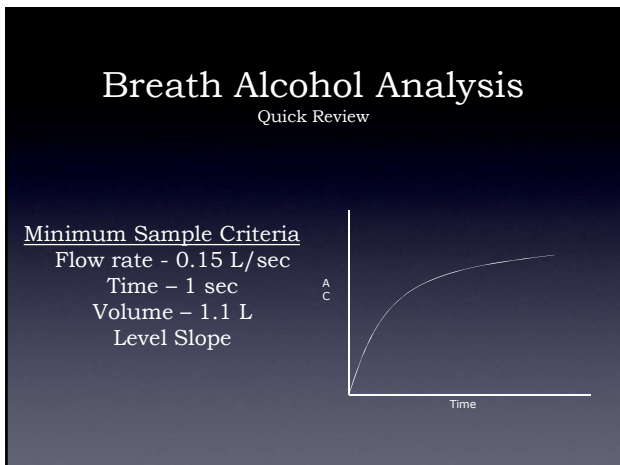
---

---

---

---

---



9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Breath Alcohol Analysis

### Quick Review

A 15-min deprivation period

A 5-min wait between consecutive subject tests

A 0.020 agreement between consecutive duplicate subject tests

Air blanks that are EtOH and interferent-free  
Bracketing concurrent calibration checks (+/- 10%)

Bracketing diagnostic checks (Checks all internal systems of instrument)

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Breath Alcohol Analysis

### Quick Review

28-1323(A)(5) - Calibration checks with a standard alcohol concentration solution **bracketing each person's duplicate breath test** are one type of records of periodic maintenance that satisfies the requirements of this section.

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

INSTRUMENT: 8033  
LOCATION: PIMA COUNTY 102  
Serial Number: 8033102  
1411154

Standard Lock: 1000000  
Last Checked By: R. HONIGSMITH 1411154

PRE: R. HONIGSMITH 1411154  
PIMA, CO  
Operator: J. SLOAN 1411154  
TEST

Subject: TIGHTY (100.000000)  
DOB: 09/11/1985  
Sex: M Height: 165  
15 Minute Deprivation Period: Yes

| Test             | g/210L | Time     |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:12:45 |
| Diagnostic Test  | Pass   | 14:13:15 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:13:42 |
| 0.100 Cal Check  | 0.100  | 14:14:01 |
| Non-Blank        | 0.000  | 14:14:30 |
| Subject Test     | 0.095  | 14:15:00 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:15:32 |
| Five Minute Wait |        |          |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:20:27 |
| Subject Test     | 0.095  | 14:21:06 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:21:38 |
| 0.100 Cal Check  | 0.100  | 14:21:57 |
| Non-Blank        | 0.000  | 14:22:26 |
| Diagnostic Test  | Pass   | 14:22:55 |

Successfully Completed Test Sequence

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Breath Alcohol Ploys

Steepling  
Blood/Breath Ratio  
RFI  
Mouth Alcohol  
15 Minute Deprivation Period  
Dry Gas Calibration Checks  
Breathing Patterns  
Duplicate Test Differences  
Test 29ml - Report 210L  
Interfering Substances  
10% Off

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Steepling

Defense Claim

Dubowski found that the alcohol concentration in the body is changing by large amounts over short periods of time

Absorption, Distribution, and Elimination of Alcohol:  
Highway Safety Aspects Dubowski 1985

Can't do retrograde

14

---

---

---

---

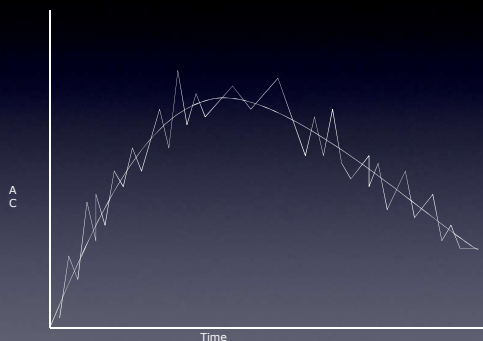
---

---

---

## Steepling

Defense Claim



15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Steeping

Arguments

### Criminalist or Defense Expert

Dubowski study was flawed

Single test – two digits

Peer reviewed literature since has shown no  
'steeping' effect

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

16

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Defense Claim

Defendant might have an abnormally  
low partition ratio causing an elevated  
BrAC

Defendant may have had a fever that  
caused an elevated BrAC

Everyone's temperature changes  
throughout the day

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

17

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Arguments

In 1973 Federal Department of  
Transportation established Title 49 Code  
Federal Regulations (49CFR382.107)

USDOT mandates instruments use 2100:1

Average partition ratio is 2350:1

Large study (21582 drinkers) found 2440:1

A.R. Gainsford, A large scale study if the relationship between blood  
and breath alcohol concentration in New Zealand drinking drivers,  
J Forensic Sci. 51: 173-178; 2006

---

---

---

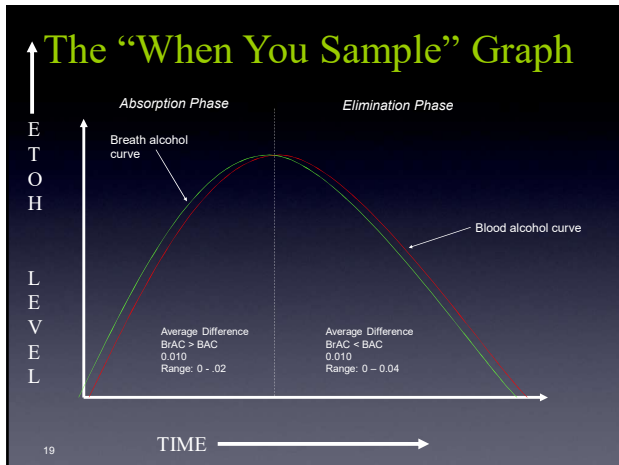
---

---

---

---

18



19

---

---

---

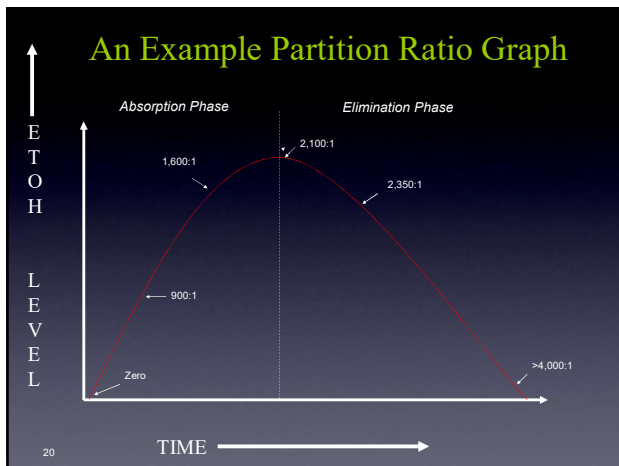
---

---

---

---

---



20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Blood to Breath Ratio

Arguments

2100:1 will underestimate a blood result  
95% of the time

Defendants BrAC will typically be 10% below  
their blood alcohol concentration

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Arguments

Theoretically, body temperature affects the partition ratio by imparting more or less alcohol into the lungs

Study showed for every degree Celsius of fever, breath alcohol will rise 6.5%

-10% (2100:1) + 6.5%(100.4°F fever) = -3.5%

Dubowski KM, Breath-alcohol simulators: scientific basis and actual performance, Journal of Analytical Toxicology, 3, 177-182.

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Arguments

Recent study demonstrated that within normal range of body temperatures (96.8°F to 99.68°F) breath alcohol concentrations not effected

Cowan, The Relationship of Normal Body Temperature, End Expired Breath Temperature, and BAC/BrAC Ratio in Physically Fit Human Test Subjects. Journal of Analytical Toxicology, Vol. 34, June 2010

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Let's do the math

Blood = 0.168g/100ml

Breath = 0.153g/210L

What is the partition ratio?

Convert to same units:

Blood = 1.68g/L Breath = 0.00073g/L

1.68/0.00073 = 2301 partition ratio

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Let's do the math

Partition Ratio = 1350

Breath = 0.153g/210L

What would have been my blood alcohol?

$.153/210 = 0.000728\text{g/L}$

$\text{BAC}/0.000728 = 1350$

$\text{BAC} = 0.983\text{g/L} = 0.0983\text{g}/100\text{ml}$

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Arguments

Irrelevant unless evidence is presented that defendant actually had elevated temperature (motion *in limine*)

Defense always presents extremes – very unlikely Defendant was at that level.

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Blood to Breath Ratio

Arguments

Never relevant to 28-1381(A)(2) or 28-1382(A) charges.

Only relevant to 28-1381(A)(1) charge in very limited circumstances:

only if presumptions are requested **and** if accompanied by evidence defendant's particular partition ratio **at the time of the breath test** differed **significantly** from norm.

*Guthrie v. Jones*, 202 Ariz. 273, 43 P.3d 601 (App. 2002).

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Blood to Breath Ratio

Arguments

Consider a Motion *In Limine* to Preclude

If the Evidence is Allowed:

Most defense experts will admit 2100 to 1  
partition ratio is to defendant's benefit  
Should admit recognized average is 2350 to 1

The expert does not know defendant's ratio –  
(speculation)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

28

## RFI

Defense Claim

RFI might have caused the Intoxilyzer  
to read high

Mark Stoltman did a “study” while at  
Phoenix PD that showed RFI can raise  
a breath test result

0.020 and .015 on alcohol free test

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

29

## RFI

Argument

Never validated

Never submitted for publication

RFI detector turned down or off

Searched for the “Sweet Spot”

New software

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

30

## Mouth Alcohol

Defense Claim

Defendant burped before/while  
blowing into instrument

Defendant had gum, chewing tobacco,  
dentures in mouth that caused a high  
reading

31

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Mouth Alcohol

Argument

Burp is just air – stomach contents  
containing alcohol would need to be  
brought up into the mouth to have any  
effect (when was last drink?)

### Three Safeguards

15 minute deprivation period  
Duplicate test (0.020 agreement)  
Mouth alcohol detection

32

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 15 Minute Deprivation Period

Defense Claim

The deprivation period might have only  
been 14 minutes and 32 seconds

Officer left the room in the middle of the  
deprivation period

Does not meet statutory method for  
admitting breath test result

33

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 15 Minute Deprivation Period

Argument

Unlikely mouth alcohol effected test  
Still have two valid safeguards in place

But... most important safeguard against  
mouth alcohol not valid

Criminalist will be of little help

Officer is your only hope

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

34

## Dry Gas Calibration Check

Defense Claim

The Dry Gas standard used to perform a  
calibration check does not contain water  
Defendant's breath sample contained water  
vapor

Can't use calibration checks to show  
instrument was working properly

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

35

## Dry Gas Calibration Check

Argument

Intoxilyzer 8000 is calibrated with wet bath  
calibration standards that contain water  
vapor

Water vapor accounted for in calibration  
procedure

Dry Gas standard is used during calibration  
procedure

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

36

## Breathing Patterns

Defense Claim

Defendant hyperventilated before blowing  
into instrument

Defendant hypoventilated before blowing  
into instrument

Holding breath caused higher breath test

37

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Breathing Patterns

Argument

Irrelevant unless there is evidence defendant  
held breath (motion *in limine*)

Have officer testify defendant did not hold  
breath prior to test

In study, subjects held breath for 30  
seconds = 15% increase

Hyperventilation dropped by 10%

Trained officer would notice this

38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Difference Between Duplicates

Defense Claim

1<sup>st</sup> Breath Test = 0.158 g/210L

2<sup>nd</sup> Breath Test = 0.177 g/210L

Mouth alcohol might have been present in  
both samples

Defendant's alcohol concentration was  
rising

39

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Difference Between Duplicates

Argument

Difference is still within accepted 0.020 agreement

Difference most likely caused by the quality of the sample given

Two measurements are not enough to determine if subject is still absorbing alcohol or eliminating alcohol

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

40

## Measure 29ml – Report 210L

Defense Claim

The Intoxilyzer 8000 sample chamber only holds 29ml of breath

When the value is converted to g/210L, any error in the measurement is exponentially increased

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

41

## Measure 29ml – Report 210L

Argument

The Intoxilyzer is calibrated in g/210L

There is not a conversion of numbers

Calibrated in g/210L – Reported in g/210L

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

42

## Interfering Substances

Defense Claim

Defendant is diabetic – acetone caused high reading

Body breaks down ethanol into acetaldehyde which caused high reading

Defendant is a painter, bartender, etc.

43

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Interfering Substances

Argument

Intoxilyzer 8000 measures alcohol in the 9 micron range

Compares 3 micron and 9 micron range to notify officer of any interfering substances

Body is able to eliminate fumes inhaled before concentration builds in body

44

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 10% Off

Defense Claim

Arizona Rules require a calibration check to be within  $\pm 10\%$  of the known value

Subject test could be as much as 10% high (10% margin of error)

(Unfortunately, many officers have fallen into this same trap)

45

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 10% Off

Argument

Does not entitle defendant to a judgment  
of acquittal of ARS §§ 28-1381(A)(2) or  
28-1382 charges  
Question of fact which should be  
submitted to jury

*State ex rel. McDougall v. Superior Court (Gurule, RPI), 178 Ariz.  
544, 875 P.2d 203 (App. 1994).*

46

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 10% Off

Argument

Get defense expert to admit best  
indicators of how accurately instrument  
is working at time of any given test are  
the before and after reference checks

Look at data for your test – it is very  
unlikely test is off by 10%

Generally instruments are either right  
on or reading a little low

47

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 10% Off

Argument

| Test             | g/210L | Time     |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:12:45 |
| Diagnostic Test  | Pass   | 14:13:15 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:13:42 |
| 0.100 Cal Check  | 0.100  | 14:14:01 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:14:20 |
| Subject Test     | 0.095  | 14:15:01 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:15:32 |
| Five Minute Wait |        |          |
| Air Blank        | 1.000  | 14:20:27 |
| Subject Test     | 0.095  | 14:21:06 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:21:38 |
| 0.100 Cal Check  | 0.100  | 14:21:57 |
| Air Blank        | 0.000  | 14:22:26 |
| Diagnostic Test  | Pass   | 14:22:55 |

Successfully  
Completed  
Test Sequence

48

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 10% Off

Argument

Demonstrate defense is partaking in mere speculation. There is no evidence instrument is reading high

To be certified by DPS, must be capable of measuring alcohol to within  $\pm 5\%$

CMI, Inc. states 3%

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

49

## Testimony

Bottom Line

Talk with the Forensic Scientist

Learn the science

Figure out how to ask the question for the answer you're trying to get out

For admissibility, is it a FACT question?

Argue speculation and irrelevant

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

50

## Questions?

Erin Boone, DPS Crime Lab  
Forensic Scientist  
(602) 223-2281  
eboone@azdps.gov

Beth Barnes, Phx City Pros Office  
AZ Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor  
(602) 262-6461  
beth.barnes@phoenix.gov

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

51